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Response

Amendment to the Claims

- 1 - 3. Canceled.
4. (Currently Amended): The gel of Claim 23 or 24 [1] in which the gel further comprises a palatability agent.
5. (Original): The gel of Claim 4 in which the palatability agent is at least one of banana, honey, artificial flavor and artificial sweetener.
6. (Original): The gel of Claim 5 in which the palatability agent comprises at least about 0.1 percent of the gel.
7. (Currently Amended): The gel of Claim 23 or 24 [1] in which the gelling agent is at least one of a gelatin and a gum.
8. (Original): The gel of Claim 7 in which the gelling agent is at least one gum selected from the group consisting of alginate, arabic gum, agar, carboxymethyl cellulose, carrageenan, gelan, kauri, locust bean, tragacanth and xanthan.
9. (Currently Amended): The gel of Claim 23 or 24 [1] in which the gel further comprises at least one of protein, oil, fat, vitamin, mineral and antioxidant.
10. (Currently Amended): A feed gel for non-human primates, the gel comprising by weight percent based upon the weight of the gel:
 - A. between about 0.3 and about 18 percent of at least one gelling agent;
 - B. at least about 5 percent, ~~[of a neutral detergent added fiber]~~ measured at 75 percent moisture content, of at least one of corn cobs, soy hulls, powdered cellulose, aspen chips, wood chips and beet pulp;
 - C. between about 0.1 and about 10 percent of a palatability agent; and
 - D. water.

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11. (Currently Amended): A method of preparing a firm, flexible feed gel for non-human primates, the gel comprising by weight percent based upon the weight of the gel:

- A. between about 0.3 and about 18 percent of a gelling agent;
- B. at least about 5 percent, ~~[of a neutral detergent added fiber]~~ measured at 75 percent moisture content, of at least one of corn cobs, soy hulls, powdered cellulose, aspen chips, wood chips and beet pulp; and
- C. water;

the method comprising:

providing a gelling agent, the at least one of corn cobs, soy hulls, powdered cellulose, aspen chips, wood chips and beet pulp ~~[a source of the neutral detergent added-fiber]~~, and water;

blending the gelling agent and the at least one of corn cobs, soy hulls, powdered cellulose, aspen chips, wood chips and beet pulp ~~[neutral detergent added fiber]~~ to form a mixture;

combining the water and the mixture to form a homogeneous mass;

transferring the homogeneous mass into a mold; and

cooling the homogeneous mass to form the firm, flexible feed gel.

12. (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 11 in which the method further comprises grinding the at least one of corn cobs, soy hulls, powdered cellulose, aspen chips, wood chips and beet pulp ~~[source of the neutral detergent added fiber]~~.

13. (Original): The method of Claim 11 in which the method further comprises providing at least one of protein, oil, fat, vitamin, mineral and antioxidant for inclusion into the homogeneous mass.

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14. (Original): The method of Claim 11 in which the mold comprises a plurality of individual cardboard boxes, each box lined with a plastic bag.

15. (Original): The method of Claim 11 further comprising heating the water to a temperature of about 180 F and sustaining the temperature for approximately 2 minutes.

16. (Original): The method of Claim 11 further comprising heating the homogeneous mass to a temperature to about 185 F and sustaining the temperature for approximately 10 minutes.

17. (Original): The method of Claim 11 further comprising providing a preservative for inclusion into the homogeneous mass.

18. (Original): The method of Claim 11 further comprising dehydrating the gel into a powder.

19. (Original): The method of Claim 18 further comprising rehydrating the powder into the gel.

20. Canceled.

21. (Currently Amended): A method of providing a non-human animal with a high neutral detergent fiber containing food, the method comprising feeding to the animal a firm, flexible feed gel comprising:

- A. between about 0.3 and about 18 percent of a gelling agent;
- B. at least about 5 percent, ~~[of a neutral detergent added fiber]~~ measured at 75 percent moisture content, of at least one of corn cobs, soy hulls, powdered cellulose, aspen chips, wood chips and beet pulp; and
- C. water.

22. (Original): The method of Claim 21 in which the animal is a great ape.

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23. (Currently Amended): A firm, flexible gel for non-human animals, the gel comprising by weight percent based upon the weight of the gel:

- A. between about 0.3 and about 18 percent of a gelling agent;
- B. at least about 5 percent, measured at 75 percent moisture content, of at least one of corn cobs, soy hulls, powdered cellulose, aspen chips, wood chips and beet [beat] pulp; and
- C. water.

24. (Currently Amended): A firm, flexible gel for non-human animals, the gel comprising by weight percent based upon the weight of the gel:

- A. between about 0.3 and about 18 percent of a gelling agent;
- B. at least about 5 percent, measured at 75 percent moisture content, of a neutral detergent added-fiber from a source which includes primate browse biscuits; and
- C. water.